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D.A. Garrison Takes Over Own Defense

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NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 12—District Attorney Jim Garrison took over his own defense today in his pinball bribery trial.

Garrison's attorneys withdrew, saying they could not agree with Garrison about how the case should be handled.

The attorneys are Fred Barnett of Boston, a member of F. Lee Bailey's firm, and Louis Mehrige of New Orleans. Their parting with Garrison was friendly.

Garrison rarely handles a case as district attorney, but he began his defense confidently today. He is charged with accepting $4,000 in bribe money from pinball operators in 1971. The trial is now in its fourth week in U.S. District Court.

Garrison's first move was to ask Judge Herbert Christenberry to withdraw from the case.

Although Garrison and the judge are old enemies, Garrison was politeness itself as he argued his motion. He said the judge had an unconscious bias against him. He cited the judge's statement Tuesday that, if the jury believed the evidence, there was enough to convict Garrison.

At one point Gariison said, "I regard you, your honor, with the highest esteem."